A TRUE

RELATION

Of the late Action between the

French and Dutch

AT

TOBAGO

IN

The West-Indies.

Giving an Account of what happened there upon the Assault made by the

Count D'Estrees,

BOTH BY

Sea and Land,

For the Gaining of the said Place.

With an Account of the Losses on both Sides, by a diligent Hand.

Licensed according to Order.

LONDON,

Printed for *W. D.* in the Year 1677.

A RELATION

Of the late Action between the

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At *Tobago* in the *West-Indies*, &c.

THe desires and Curiosity of some People, and especially those who were my Friends, hath made me a little more then commonly Industrious to procure the best Intelligence I could Possibly to give them satisfaction concerning the dispute between the *French* and *Dutch* at *Tobago*, which is as follows.

Some time since we had an Account how Count D' *Estrees* had assaulted *Tobago* with great Resolution both by Sea and Land, in which there was great Loss suffered on both sides, which by the first advice, was, That Eleven of the *Dutch* Ships were lost, and only four of the *French*, but the *French* were totally worsted by Land; The second seemed to speak much to the same purpose, only somewhat more favourable of the *Dutch*, which is the less to be regarded, because all these Intelligences came by the way of *France*, the *Dutch* not having received the least intimation from the Sieur *Binches*, nor from any other hand of certainty than can believe, but what they received from *England*, by a Ship lately Arrived there from some of the *English* Colonies adjacent to the said *Tobago*.

The Count D' *Estrees* by the King his Masters particular command and appointment, was to provide himself with such a Force and Power, as might not only be able to annoy the *Dutch* in those Parts, but to reduce *Tobago*, which the *Dutch* had taken from the *French* sometime since, To which purpose he put on Board Two Thousand Souldiers, some Hundreds of Gentlemen Volunteers and Planters, besides

beſides a large proportion of Marriners above his Complement; with this Fleet which conſiſted of near Twenty Sail, or thereabouts, great and ſmall, being Ships for the moſt part of very conſiderable force, and much Superior to the *Dutch*, they arrived in the ſame place the latter end of *February* 1676. where the Count *D' Eſtrees* called a Council of VVar, to conſider which was the beſt way to Attaque the *Dutch*, and by a general conſent and allowance it was determined both by Sea and Land at one time, to which purpoſe 1500 men was put on Shore, under the Command of the *Sieurs Grand Fountain* and *Horovard*; and the Conduct and care of the Fleet to the Count *D' Eſtrees* himſelf.

The Dutch in the mean time, as it highly concerned them to reſiſt ſuch a Power, was not wanting to make the moſt conſiderable Defence they could, and therefore had very ſtrongly fortified themſelves at Land, and for their better ſecurity next the Sea, had built a Plat-form, on which was mounted 30. Piece of Ordnance, under whoſe Protection their Ships lay, and was the chief occaſion of the *French* loſs, for the Dutch being weak in Shiping, were forced only to be defenſive, being moov'd as near as conveniently they could along the Shore by the Plat-form, which was very vigorouſly aſſaulted by the ſaid Count, and a moſt obſtinate Fight continued for ſome hours, wherein the Dutch loſt near their whole Fleet, being eleven in Number, amongſt which was the *Defender* in which the *Sieur Binches* was, and the *Zeland* both run a Shore, the one of 50 Guns, and the other 44 Guns, and the *Croningen* another of their Capital Ships of 56 Guns burnt, with ſeven others.

Notwithſtanding the ſaid loſs on the Dutch ſide, 'twas impoſſible to diſlodge them from the Plat-form, which they maintained with ſo much Reſolution and Courage, that after the Count had attempted it with as much gallantry as was poſſible for any Man, was forc'd to decline it, and leave five or ſix of his Ships buried in the Ocean, beſides two that fell into the Enemies hands, as an everlaſting Monument of his undoubted Gallantry. His own Ship the *Glorieux* being Fired caſually, being a Veſſel of 72 Braſs Guns, and near 500 Men, was reſolved not to ſurvive ſo great a diſappointment, but that at length, by the perſwaſion of ſome, himſelf with ſome few others, eſcaped a ſhore in a ſhallop, where he met with that unwelcome news

of the Defeat of his Forces at Land, where the Dutch had (for they certainly expected a visit from the *French*) so strengthned themselves, that had the *French* been double the number they were, they could not in Reason have prevailed. For the Dutch had raised a new Fort, wherein were several Pieces of Ordnance in a most advantageous Place, and though it was bravely attempted by the *French* several times, they were still beaten off with very great Slaughter, wherein the Sieurs *Herovard* and *Baincourt*, with several Officers of Note were slain, besides by water

The Sieurs { *Gabaret*, *De la Borde*, *De Lizine*. } Captain of Ships Killed.

Four Captains more wounded,
Four Lieutenants of Ships Killed,
Four Lieutenants wounded.

Five hundred Seamen and souldiers wounded and Prisoners, besides what were killed; The Defendant a Ship of 62 Guns; and 380 men had her Main-mast shot off; The *Pearl* and *Entrepide*, the first a ship of 58 Guns and 350 Men, the other of 50 Guns and 320 Men, both taken by the Dutch. The Dutch loss is very great, for all the Captains of their ships save one are killed or wounded, besides what was lost a shore. I shall not undertake a further Relation, being beyond my Intelligence, but leave the confirmation of what hath been said to the Account expected from the *Sieur Binches*.

FINIS.

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